

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:
 permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server; and
 delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is achieved by inserting multiple delays that are inserted at different points in a mail protocol.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting a message comprises providing instructions on how to modify mail client software.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is a combination of a predetermined time period and receipt of a notification from the mail server that mail has been received for the mail client at the mail server, whichever occurs first.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests ~~includes~~ further comprises attenuating transmission of the subsequent mail requests.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is suspended in the event it is determined that a user is manually initiating rapidly repeated mail requests.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A proxy server for use in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the proxy server comprising:

a processor, and

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the proxy server to perform the steps of:

permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through the proxy server to the mail server; and

delaying subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is achieved by inserting multiple delays that are inserted at different points in a mail protocol.

15. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time.

16. (Original) The proxy server of claim 15, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.

17. (Original) The proxy server of claim 15, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.

18. (Original) The proxy server of claim 17, wherein the memory further includes software instructions to enable the proxy server to perform the step of:

transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.

19. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein the predetermined condition is a combination of a predetermined time period and receipt of a notification from the mail server that mail has been received for the mail client at the mail server, whichever occurs first.

20. (Original) The proxy server of claim 17, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on the amount of traffic load on the network.
21. (Original) The proxy server of claim 17, wherein the predetermined period of time is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.
22. (Original) The proxy server of claim 21, wherein the memory further includes software instructions to enable the proxy server to perform the step of:
transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior.
23. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests is suspended in the event it is determined that a user is manually initiating rapidly repeated mail requests.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Original) The proxy server of claim 14, wherein delaying subsequent mail requests includes attenuating transmission of the subsequent mail requests.
26. (Original) A method of moderating traffic load on network servers in a network where electronic mail is retained for retrieval from at least one mail server, the method comprising:
 permitting a mail request for a mail client to pass through a proxy server to the mail server;
 applying remedial handling of subsequent mail requests for the mail client at the proxy server until a predetermined condition has been satisfied, the remedial handling being selected from the group consisting of:
 delaying and attenuating; and
 transmitting a message to the mail client providing information that the mail client's mail requests will be delayed as a result of the mail client's past behavior
 wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined period of time that is dynamically determined based on past behavior of the mail client.